

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02704 190956Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6338

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 2704

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV SHUM PK US
SUBJECT: BHUTTO DEATH SENTENCE

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 2692 (B) STATE 60396

1. I TODAY CONVEYED TO FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ MESSAGE TO GEN ZIA AUTHORIZED BY DEPT CONCERNING DEATH SENTENCE FOR BHUTTO, READING THE FOLLOWING TEXT AT DICTATION SPEED:

QUOTE PAKISTAN'S JUDICIAL PROCEDURES ARE OF COURSE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOP, AND I HAVE NO DESIRE TO INTERVENE IN SUCH INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HOWEVER I AND MY GOVERNMENT HAVE LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN ANY FACTORS THAT AFFECT US/GOP RELATIONS. THEREFORE I AM IN MY PROPER SPHERE OF ACTIVITY WHEN I SPEAK FOR MY GOVERNMENT AND SAY THAT THE EXECUTION OF MR. BHUTTO WOULD BE VERY BADLY RECEIVED IN THE U.S. AND WOULD BE A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO THE USG. I HOPE YOU WILL KEEP THIS REACTION IN MIND, AS WELL AS THE PROBABLE ADVERSE REACTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, AS YOU CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, IF THE SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS THE DEATH PENALTY. UNQUOTE.

2. SHAHNAWAZ SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONVEY IT TO GEN. ZIA. SHAHNAWAZ REFRAINED FROM COMMENT EXCEPT TO POINT OUT THAT JUDICIAL PROCEDURES INCLUDING APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT WERE BEYOND

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POWER OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO INFLUENCE. I REPLIED THAT TEXT OF DEMARCHE INDICATED CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS POINT, REFERRING AS IT DID TO EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.

3. MY STAFF AND I ARE GETTING QUESTIONS FROM FRIENDLY AMBASSADORS ASKING WHAT USG INTENDS TO DO. I HAVE TOLD ONLY BRITISH CHARGE IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, AND DO NOT INTEND TO TELL ANYONE ELSE UNLESS

DEPT SO AUTHORIZES ME OR MAKES PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEMARCHE
AS RECOMMENDED IN REFTTEL (A). SEVERAL AMBASSADORS HOPE THEIR
GOVERNMENTS WILL WEIGH IN ON SIDE OF CLEMENCY. WEST EUROPEAN
GROUP DISCUSSED THE MATTER AT A MEETING TODAY, WITH MOST AMBS
DECIDING TO RECOMMEND PRIVATE, UNPUBLICIZED DEMARCHES TO GOP. PRC
AMB TOLD ME LAST NIGHT HE THOUGHT DEATH PENALTY IS NOT
APPROPRIATE, BUT THAT IMPRISONMENT WOULD BE; HE DID NOT SAY
WHETHER PRC WILL CONVEY THAT THOUGHT TO GOP. DEMARCHES HAVING
GREATEST EFFECTIVE WEIGHT WOULD BE THOSE OF SAUDIS AND IRANIANS,
IF THEY DECIDE TO DO SO.

4. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.
HUMMEL

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NNN

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